

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended to address small informalities objected to in the Office Action. In light of their formal nature, the changes to the specification do not raise a question of new matter.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in the application. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 1 and 11 are amended to incorporate the features of original Claim 2; and Claims 1 and 3-11 are amended to correct minor informalities and cosmetic matters of form. Support for amended Claims 1 and 3-11 can be found in the original specification, claims and the drawings. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2-10 were objected to over informalities; Claims 1-3 and 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stenman (US 6,223,029) in view of Ugawa (Japanese Pub. No 2002239178); and Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stenman in view of Ugawa and Gopinath (US 5,990,885).

Claim 2 is canceled, and Claims 3-10 are amended to correct the informalities objected to by the Office Action. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to Claims 3-10 be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-11 under U.S.C. 103(a), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections and traverses the rejections, as discussed next.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 11 state novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Briefly summarizing, Applicant's invention relates to a remote control terminal provided in each guest room of a hotel, where the terminal can easily obtain and display

information corresponding to various available services provided by a connection between a guest room and a game arcade. The terminal enables a user to easily obtain the various available services.

To achieve the above objective, amended Claim 1 recites “storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of instruction information, the pieces of instruction information showing the user how to obtain the predetermined services and being referred to by the user, wherein the input means selects of the plurality of pieces of instruction information stored in the storing means, the obtaining means obtains the instruction information selected by the input means from the storing means, and the displaying means displays the instruction information obtained by the obtaining means, the instruction information showing the user how to obtain the selected service and being referred to by the user.”

With the above configuration, the remote control terminal provides a user not only with the ability to remotely obtain available services, but also with instruction information, such as operating manuals, that show the user how to obtain the various available services. By referring to this instruction information, a user can easily obtain and enjoy various services offered by the game arcade or the hotel, via the remote control terminal.

Amended independent Claim 11, while directed to an alternate embodiment, recites a similar feature of “the display [displaying] the instruction information obtained by the obtainer, the instruction information showing the user how to obtain the selected service and being referred to by the user.”

Turning to the applied reference, Stenman describes a system enabling a mobile station to provide combined mobile telephony and remote control terminal functionalities, where the mobile station remotely controls a variety of peripheral devices through user provided inputs. The applied reference describes “a command control module [connected to a] local communications module for [...] communication with a plurality of [...] peripheral

devices.” (Stenman, col.6, lines 65-68, col.7, lines 1-4). “The command control module generates **instructions** for controlling the peripheral devices in response to user input.” (Stenman, col.7 lines 2-4). “A user enters control commands through a user interface of the mobile station. The control commands are processed by the command control module and transmitted to an associated local peripheral device via [a] communications link...” (Stenman, col.7 lines 48-52).

The “instructions” mentioned above are not presented to the user. They are the result of the command control module processing the user’s input. The instructions are “transmitted to an associated local peripheral device”, such as a “light, door, vibrator, car lock mechanism, etc.” (Stenman, Claims 7-20, 24-27, 30-32). This makes it clear that the instructions are not intended to be perceived by the user, but are instead interpreted by a peripheral device, and passed directly to that device. The command control module translates the user’s input requesting a peripheral device to perform some function into an instruction format understandable to the particular peripheral device, and sends the instruction to that device.

The Office Action states on page 6, lines 1-2: “since the command control module 2025 in Fig.4 generates instruction in response to user input it is clear that the mobile station 2000 in Fig.4 must store the instructions.” This statement suggests the Office Action interpreted “a plurality of pieces of instruction information, wherein the pieces of instruction information show procedures for obtaining the services” of original Claim 2 as the same “instructions” described by Stenman col.7 line 3. This interpretation however is incorrect, as shown in the discussion above. Stenman describes instructions as something that is sent to peripheral devices, and causes them to perform some functionality. The present invention discloses “pieces of instruction information showing the user how to obtain the services and

being referred to by the user”, such as “operating manuals.” It is clear that this instruction information is different from the instructions described by Stenman.

Accordingly Stenman fails to teach or suggest “a plurality of pieces of instruction information, the pieces of instruction information **showing the user how to obtain the predetermined services and being referred to by the user**” recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 11 of the present invention. Stenman also fails to teach or suggest “storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of instruction information, the pieces of instruction information **showing the user how to obtain the predetermined services and being referred to by the user**” and “the displaying means [displaying] the instruction information obtained by the obtaining means, the instruction information **showing the user how to obtain the selected service and being referred to by the user**”.

Ugawa also fails to teach or suggest the features of amended Claims 1 and 11. The object of Ugawa is “to provide a game [arcade] monitoring image information providing system capable of easily offering a monitoring image in a game [arcade] at a low cost to a user such as a manager” (Ugawa, abstract). This object has nothing to do with the features of amended independent Claims 1 and 11.

Claims 3-10 depend from Claim 1 directly or indirectly, and should therefore be allowed.

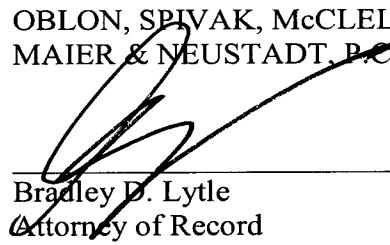
Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1, and 3-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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